

INTERNET COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference RPW:KKA:PF17414		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000226	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 21 February 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 22 February 2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ A01K 83/06, 85/00, 97/00			
Applicant DING GOES PTY LTD et al			

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheet(s).</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 22 September 2003	Date of completion of the report 21 June 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer D.R. LUM Telephone No. (02) 6283 2544

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 7-15, as originally filed,
pages 1, 6A, filed with the demand,
pages 2, received on 10 June 2004 with the letter of 10 June 2004
pages 3-6, received on 8 January 2004 with the letter of 8 January 2004
- ☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed;
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages 16, received on 10 June 2004 with the letter of 10 June 2004
pages 17-19, received on 8 January 2004 with the letter of 8 January 2004
- ☒ the drawings, pages 1/12 - 12/12, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

The international preliminary examination report has been drawn up in respect of the entire international application but the International Preliminary Examining Authority is of the opinion that the application does not appear to comply with the requirements of unity of invention as set forth in the PCT regulations (Article 34(3), Rule 68(1) PCT).

The separate groups of invention are: Claims 1-6, 13-14, claims 7-11, 15-18, claims 19-21, claims 22-28, claims 29-30, claims 31-38 and claims 39-44

1. Claims 1-6, 13-14 are directed to a bait holding apparatus comprising a resiliently deformable receptacle into which a bait can be placed, said receptacle including a plurality of apertures. It is considered that these features are the first special technical feature.
2. Claims 7-11, 15-18 are directed to a bait holding apparatus comprising a plurality of rings in series through each of which the bait can be inserted, with each ring connected to a next adjacent ring by one or more connecting members. It is considered that the relationship of the rings is the second special technical feature.
3. Claims 22-28 are directed to a bait holding apparatus including a receptacle in which bait can be held and a closure for the opening about which the closure can be releasably attached to close the opening. It is considered that this combination of features comprises the third special technical feature.
4. Claims 29-30, are directed to a bait holding apparatus including a receptacle including a closure having one or more passages extending therethrough. It is considered that the closure with the passages comprises the fourth special technical feature.
5. Claims 31-38 are directed to a bait holding apparatus comprising a plurality of ties which are interconnected to one or two adjacent ties and each having a fastening mechanism so that each tie can be wrapped around the bait. It is considered that this feature is the fifth special technical feature.
6. Claims 39-44 are directed to an applicator for a bait holding apparatus and which includes an insertion end and a bait guiding surface over which the bait can be moved to insert the bait. It is considered that this combination is the sixth special technical feature.

Note: Claims 19-21 due to their appendancies to any one of claims 1-12 can be grouped together with either inventions of groups 1 or 2 above.

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
- ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-44	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-44	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-44	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-44 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2) -(4) for novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose

1. a bait holding apparatus or a method of forming said apparatus which is resiliently deformable with and open end and an opposing closed end. After insertion of the bait the receptacle resiliently deforms around the bait. The receptacle also has a plurality of apertures.
2. A bait holding apparatus including a plurality of rings in series through each of which the bait is inserted with each ring being interconnected to a next adjacent ring.
3. a bait holding apparatus including a receptacle including a closure having one or more passages extending therethrough (see notes in box VIII)

Therefore the subject matter of these claims is new and meets the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. Claims 22-38 are not fully supported by the description in that it appears that the bait holding apparatus must be deformable and either:
 - be manufactured from a material which has memory, that is, when the bait is inserted into the apparatus, the apparatus deforms itself around the bait and maintains the structural integrity of the bait which has a definite shape- eg, rodent or fish; or
 - be shaped such that it resembles the outline of an animal bait.

Re :

- page 1 problems of prior arts lines 30 - 35;
 - page 2 lines 10-15;
 - page 2 line 27 - " shape and visual qualities to be preserved";
 - page 4 lines 5-8 etc
2. Claim 22 is not fully supported by the description because from a fair reading of the description it appears to be essential that the receptacle be deformable etc -see item 1 above and also have apertures in order to permit the smell etc of the bait to attract the fish. As currently defined, it will include any receptacle, with or without apertures and which has a lid.
 3. Claim 39 is unclear with regard to its appendancy to itself "22 to 39"- see page 19 line 12

Note only.

- a. Claim 39 as defined will include within its scope commonly available and used items such as scoops, frusto-conical shaped filling aids, as they are capable of and suitable for aiding the insertion of a bait into the receptacles defined in claims 1-9, 16 or 20-37.
- b. Claim 22 and 29 at least, as a consequence of item 1 above, will include within its scope, common berley buckets which have perforated sides and lids which have holes/perforations and which lids are releasably attached to the receptacle. These buckets are commonly made of plastics which are deformable.13 The holes in the lids have been equated as passages as it permits flow of water into the container.

If this application enters the National Phase in Australia, without any changes to these claims, then a novelty objection to this effect will be raised.

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BAIT HOLDING SYSTEM

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a bait holding system developed primarily, though not exclusively, for holding and optionally reinforcing, storing or housing bait for use in fishing and related pursuits. However, the system can also be applied in other applications where bait is employed, such as hunting, trapping etc.

Background to the Invention

In both commercial and recreational fishing, bait disintegration can be a problem where the bait is subjected to successive hits, grabs or strikes, or where the bait is suspended in water for considerable periods of time.

In deep-sea fishing for large fish, such as billfish (including marlin), it is known to use “teasers” to attract the fish into the vicinity of a fishing vessel. Artificial teasers only work if the fish visually sights the teasers and therefore natural teasers have been employed because of the fish-attracting aroma and scent they release in addition to appearance. Where natural teasers are used, again the problem of disintegration becomes an issue.

It is known to reinforce natural teasers, such as whole fish (eg. slimy mackerel), by wrapping or stitching the bait with thread. However, the preparation of each teaser is very time consuming, often taking from 10 to 30 minutes and, where multiple teasers are used, this can involve significant preparation time and delays.

In non-water based applications of bait, such as with hunting or trapping, baits are often used to lure predators, which may be game or pests. Again, baits can disintegrate when left out in the environment for some time, or when subjected to successive nibbling, biting or feeding by a predator. They may also disintegrate without, for example, the associated trap being activated.

Mesh bags for surrounding bait on a fishing hook are known in the art. Examples are shown in US4839982, US6427260, NZ241883, GB2310782, WO96/28021 and DE3439735. Whilst these apparatus can also act as teasers, because fish-attracting aroma and scent can be released therefrom, the apparatus are not designed to enhance visual attraction, in that they retain essentially a bag shape once bait has been inserted therein.

**REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT****Summary of the Invention**

In a first aspect the present invention provides a bait holding apparatus
5 including:

- a deformable receptacle into which the bait can be placed such that the receptacle can deform around the bait; and
- a plurality of apertures defined in the receptacle such that, when the bait is placed therein, a predator can sense the bait via the apertures.

10 Employment of a deformable receptacle enables the apparatus to assume the shape of the bait. This is advantageous where the bait is a whole small animal, such as a small baitfish or rodent, as a predator can still recognise the animal shape. However, where the bait is fragments such as chopped up bait, the receptacle can be shaped to simulate a whole small animal, and the bait can then be urged therein such that the
15 receptacle still deforms around the bait, and assumes the shape of the small animal.

Advantageously, the apparatus of the present invention provides a receptacle which deforms around the exterior of the bait to contain it, whilst also enabling it to be rapidly and easily reinforced. In addition, the employment of a plurality of apertures allows the predators to more easily sense the bait, and optionally access it.

20 Preferably the receptacle is a sleeve into which the bait can be inserted. The employment of a sleeve is extremely convenient because of its ease of use. Preferably the sleeve is elongate, being closed at one end and having a reinforced opening at the opposite end through which the bait can be introduced into the sleeve (via insertion at the opening). This arrangement provides for a rapid deployment of the bait.

25 Preferably the apertures are a plurality of holes formed in the sleeve to define a generally perforated or grid-like formation around the bait in use. This maximises the exposure of the bait whilst still reinforcing it, and enables its taste, aroma, scent, shape and visual qualities to be preserved.

30 Preferably the sleeve closed end is adapted for providing a line attachment point thereto. Thus, the reinforcing apparatus can be attached to a connecting line such as a fishing line, so that it may be reused. In land-based applications the apparatus can be connected to a safety line.

35 Optionally, hooks or other fastening mechanisms can be associated with the apparatus so that it can function not only as an attractor, but also as a captive mechanism. Other attractor accessories can also be associated with the sleeve such as coloured nose cones, side flippers and fins, beaks, noses etc.

The sleeve-closed end can be provided with an aerodynamic profile to enhance

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movement of the apparatus through a fluid such as water.

In an alternative arrangement, the receptacle can be a plurality of deformable rings in series, with each ring connected to a next adjacent ring by one or more connecting members. Preferably in this regard the bait is inserted to extend through each of the rings in series, with preferably two connecting members maintaining the rings in spaced relation to each other and preventing, for example, their displacement too far from each other, thereby maintaining the integrity of the apparatus.

Typically the receptacle is formed from an elastomeric material having shape memory, such as a polymeric rubber. In this regard, the material may also be impregnated with colourings and other attractor features such as reflective material fragments including metal fragments etc.

In a second aspect the present invention provides a method for forming a bait holding apparatus where the receptacle is a sleeve as defined in the first aspect, including the steps of:

- dipping a mandrel into molten material for the sleeve;
- removing the mandrel and allowing the sleeve to solidify around the mandrel;
- forming a plurality of apertures in the sleeve whilst on the mandrel or once removed therefrom.

The closed end of the sleeve can be defined at the free end of the mandrel and can be additionally formed to take appropriate shapes and receive attachments as described above.

The opposite open end of the sleeve can be formed around the mandrel, for example, by being folded or rolled over prior to complete solidification, to define a reinforcement around the open end, thus allowing for repeated insertion of bait thereinto without tearing of the sleeve.

Preferably the apertures are formed in the sleeve by pressing, punching or cutting. The apertures may also be formed by appropriate protrusions defined on the mandrel.

In a third aspect the present invention provides a method for forming an apparatus as defined in the first aspect where the receptacle includes a plurality of deformable rings, including the steps of:

- arranging a sheet of deformable material on a substrate; and
- forming in and then removing from the sheet a plurality of adjacent but non-overlapping rings, such that at least one connecting member extends between adjacent rings.

Advantageously in the third aspect the apparatus can be formed using a single pressing, punching or cutting motion, thus providing for rapid apparatus manufacture.

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Alternatively, the rings and connecting member(s) can be moulded.

Preferably two connecting members are defined to extend between adjacent rings, one being tangential to an upper part of each ring and the other being tangential to a lower part of each ring.

5 In a fourth aspect, the present invention provides a bait holding apparatus formed from a material having a plurality of apertures therethrough that has a shape that enables it to be positioned to surround the bait in a close facing relationship, in a manner that tends to preserve the structural integrity of the bait.

10 In the fourth aspect, the material can be the deformable receptacle as defined in the first, second and third aspects. However, the material can also be a metallic mesh receptacle (eg. a perforated or apertured stainless steel mesh bag including eg. wire mesh) that is shaped for positioning in a close facing relationship to the bait (especially a whole bait). Alternatively, the material can be in the form of ties or tapes (eg. an adhesive tape) having apertures therethrough and which can be wrapped around the bait
15 in the close facing relationship.

The ties or tapes can be arranged in a grid formation for wrapping around the bait, the grid defining the apertures therethrough with free ends of the ties or tapes being fastened altogether to define the receptacle.

20 In a fifth aspect the present invention provides a bait holding apparatus including:

- a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
- a closure for the receptacle opening and about which the receptacle can be releasably attached to close the opening.

25 Advantageously the fifth aspect of the invention provides a rapid and secure closing system. The closure may also provide a supporting substrate for the attachment of lines and/or hooks to the apparatus (e.g. when used in fishing).

30 Preferably the closure has one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior. For example, when used in water, water may be caused to flow through the passages). Advantageously, when the receptacle is porous or apertured, fluid can flow right through the apparatus, especially where a line is attached to the closure and the closure is pulled through water. This would cause water to flow through the apparatus via the passages, then through the pores/apertures of a receptacle. This has particular
35 advantages in fishing as described below.

Preferably the closure is a bung having a peripheral recess defined at one end thereof into which a skirt portion of the receptacle opening can be releasably fastened.

In this regard, the skirt portion can be retained in the recess by a tie or ring extending circumferentially therearound (e.g. a polymeric O-ring).

Optionally, attractor devices can be associated with the closure, and these can include filaments attached thereto and which extend away therefrom when the apparatus is dragged through water. Such attractor devices can also include apparatus colouring, imaging such as eyes, reflectors, reflective material dispersed through the closure etc.

The receptacle of the fifth aspect may also be as defined in the first and fourth aspects, or manufactured using a method according to the second aspect.

In a sixth aspect the present invention provides a bait holding apparatus including:

- a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
- a closure for the receptacle opening and having one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior.

A flow of fluid, such as water, through the apparatus can enhance/increase the release of aroma, scent and bait particles to the environment to attract predators.

The receptacle of the sixth aspect may also be as defined in the first, fourth or fifth aspects, and typically the closure is as defined in the fifth aspect.

In a seventh aspect the present invention provides a bait holding apparatus including a plurality of ties, each tie connected to one or two adjacent ties and each having a fastening mechanism associated with opposite ends thereof such that each tie can be wrapped around the bait and then fastened at or near its ends.

Such a system provides an alternative to inserting the bait into a receptacle, such as a sleeve, and provides a rapid means for reinforcing a bait.

Preferably each tie is connected to one or two adjacent ties by one or more transversally extending ties, to define a tie grid. In this regard, each transversally extending tie can be insertable through a respective slot in each of the plurality of ties, providing adjustability to the overall grid formation. Also, preferably each transversally extending tie is interferingly receivable in its respective slot in each of the plurality of ties, thus providing dimensional stability to the tie grid.

The fastening mechanism can be embodied as:

- free tie ends that can be tied together to fasten the apparatus to the bait; or
- a slotted head at one tie end and a free end at the other end that is receivable interferingly through the slot of its head to fasten the apparatus to the bait.

Preferably sides of the other tie free end, or of each transversally extending tie, are serrated. This facilitates their interfering receipt within respective slots.

Each tie can be provided in the form of a flat tape-like member, or can be a member which is generally circular in cross-section. Each tie may also be formed from an elastomeric material.

5 In an eighth aspect the present invention provides an applicator for a bait holding apparatus that includes a deformable opening to a receptacle, the applicator being suitable for apparatus as defined in the first, fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh aspects, the applicator including a receptacle insertion end adapted for insertion into an opening of the receptacle to deformably open the same to facilitate bait insertion, a bait guiding surface extending from the insertion end and over which the bait can be moved, with the
10 surface extending towards an applicator remote end for protruding beyond the receptacle when the applicator is inserted therein to facilitate applicator handling by a user.

This applicator further enhances the use of bait holding apparatus in accordance with the present invention, easing and speeding up the insertion of bait into the
15 apparatus.

Preferably the applicator is generally flat and, in plan view, gradually tapers from a relatively wider remote end to a relatively narrower insertion end, with the bait guiding surface being defined on either side of the applicator. Alternatively the bait guiding surface can be concave.

20 Preferably one or more guide channels are provided on the bait guiding surface to facilitate guidance of the bait towards and in through the receptacle opening.

Optionally one or more finger holes are provided at the remote end to facilitate user handling of the applicator.

25 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Notwithstanding any other forms which may fall within the scope of the present invention, preferred forms of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

30 Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a first bait holding apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 shows a side elevation of an alternative apparatus to that shown in Figure 1, with a bait inserted therein;

Figure 3 shows a similar view to Figure 1, but with a closed end of the apparatus
35 being modified for line attachment and for water movement;

Figure 4 shows a similar view to Figure 2, but with a closed end of the apparatus being again modified for line attachment and for predator attraction;

Claims

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1. A bait holding apparatus including:
 - a deformable receptacle into which the bait can be placed such that the
5 receptacle can deform around the bait; and
 - a plurality of apertures defined in the receptacle such that, when the bait is
 placed therein, the predator can sense the bait via the apertures.
2. Apparatus as claim in claim 1 wherein the receptacle is a sleeve into which the
 bait can be inserted.
- 10 3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sleeve is elongate, being closed at
 one end and having a reinforced opening at the opposite end through which the
 bait can be introduced into the sleeve.
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the apertures are a plurality
 of holes formed in the sleeve to define a perforated or grid-like formation
15 around the bait in use.
5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sleeve closed end is adapted to
 provide a line attachment point thereto and optionally has an aerodynamic
 profile to enhance movement of the apparatus through a fluid such as water.
- 20 6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the receptacle is a plurality of
 deformable rings in series, with each ring connected to a next adjacent ring by
 one or more connecting members.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the bait is inserted to extend through
 each of the rings in series, with two connecting members maintaining the rings
 in spaced relation to each other.
- 25 8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the receptacle
 is formed from an elastomeric material having shape memory.
9. A bait holding apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the
 accompanying drawings.
- 30 10. A method for forming an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 2 to 5
 including the steps of:
 - dipping a mandrel into molten material for the sleeve;
 - removing the mandrel and allowing the sleeve to solidify around the
 mandrel;
 - forming a plurality of apertures in the sleeve, either whilst on the mandrel, or
35 once removed therefrom.
11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the apertures are formed in the sleeve
 by pressing, punching or cutting.

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12. A method for forming an apparatus as defined in claims 6 or 7 including the steps of:
- arranging a sheet of deformable material on a substrate;
 - forming in and then removing from the sheet a plurality of adjacent but non-overlapping rings, and such that at least one connecting member extends between adjacent rings.
13. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the rings and connecting member(s) are formed by pressing, punching or cutting the sheet.
14. A method as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein two connecting members are defined to extend between adjacent rings, one being tangential to an upper part of each ring and the other being tangential to a lower part of each ring.
15. A method for forming a bait holding apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
16. A bait holding apparatus formed from a material having a plurality of apertures therethrough that has a shape that enables it to be positioned to surround the bait in a close-facing relationship, in a manner that tends to preserve the structural integrity of the bait.
17. Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the material is the deformable receptacle as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.
18. Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the material is a metallic mesh receptacle such as a perforated or apertured stainless steel mesh.
19. Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the material is one or more ties or tapes having apertures therethrough and which can be wrapped around the bait in the close-facing relationship.
20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the ties or tapes are arranged in a grid formation for wrapping around the bait, the grid defining the apertures therethrough, with free ends of the ties or tapes being fastenable together to define the receptacle.
21. A bait holding apparatus including:
- a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
 - a closure for the receptacle opening and about which the receptacle can be releasably attached to close the opening.
22. Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein the closure has one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior.
23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 or claim 22 wherein the closure is a bung

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having a peripheral recess defined at one end thereof into which a skirt portion of the receptacle opening can be releasably fastened.

24. Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein the skirt portion is retained in the recess by a tie or ring extending circumferentially therearound.
- 5 25. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 24 including an attractor device associated with the closure.
26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein the attractor device includes filaments attached to the closure, colouring of the closure, reflective material at or dispersed through the closure, or shaping of the closure.
- 10 27. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 26 wherein the receptacle is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 or 18.
28. A bait holding apparatus including:
- a receptacle in which the bait can be held and including an opening through which the bait can be introduced into the receptacle; and
 - 15 - a closure for the receptacle opening and having one or more passages extending therethrough such that fluid can flow from the apparatus exterior and into the receptacle interior.
29. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 wherein the receptacle is defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, 18 or 21.
- 20 30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 or 29 wherein the closure is as defined in any one of claims 21 to 26.
31. A bait holding apparatus including a plurality of ties, each tie connected to one or two adjacent ties and each having a fastening mechanism associated with opposite ends thereof such that each tie can be wrapped around the bait and
- 25 fastened at or near its ends.
32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31 wherein each tie is connected to one or two adjacent ties by one or more transversally extending ties to define a tie grid.
33. Apparatus as claimed in claim 32 wherein each transversally extending tie is insertable through a respective slot in each of the plurality of ties.
- 30 34. Apparatus as claimed in claim 33 wherein each transversally extending tie is interferingly receivable in its respective slot in each of the plurality of ties.
35. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 34 wherein the fastening mechanism is:
- free tie ends that can be tied together to fasten the apparatus to the bait; or
 - 35 - a slotted head at one tie end and a free end at the other tie end that is receivable interferingly through the slot of its head to fasten the apparatus to the bait.
36. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 33 to 35 wherein sides of the other tie

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free end, or of each transversally extending tie, are serrated.

37. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 36 wherein each tie is a flat tape-like member, or is generally circular in cross-section.

38. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 37 wherein each tie is formed from an elastomeric material.

39. An applicator for a bait holding apparatus that includes a deformable opening to a receptacle, and suitable for an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, 16, 17 or 19 to 38, the applicator including a receptacle insertion end adapted for insertion into an opening of the receptacle to deformably open the same to facilitate bait insertion, a bait guiding surface extending from the insertion end and over which the bait can be moved, with the bait guiding surface extending towards an applicator remote end for protruding beyond the receptacle when the applicator is inserted therein to facilitate applicator handling by a user.

40. An applicable as claimed in claim 39 that is generally flat and, in plan view, that gradually tapers from a relatively wider remote end to a relatively narrower insertion end, with the bait guiding surface being defined on either side of the applicator.

41. An applicator as claimed in claim 39 or 40 wherein one or more guide channels are provided on the bait guiding surface to facilitate guidance of the bait towards and in through the receptacle opening.

42. An applicator as claimed in any one of claims 39 to 41 wherein one or more finger holes are provided at the remote end to facilitate user handling of the applicator.

43. An applicator as claimed in any one of the claims 39 to 42 that has a concave guiding surface, defining an elongate channel extending between the insertion and remote ends.

44. An applicator for a bait holding apparatus substantially herein described with reference to Figures 17 and 18 of the accompanying drawings.